

1684 in the Committee of the Whole, pursuant to House Resolution 382, the following amendment be permitted to be offered at any time: Sherman amendment No. 14.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Mississippi?

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

PERMISSION TO OFFER KUCINICH AMENDMENT NO. 11 OUT OF ORDER DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1684, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during further consideration of H.R. 1684 in the Committee of the Whole, pursuant to House Resolution 382, the following amendment be permitted to be offered at any time: Kucinich amendment No. 11.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Mississippi?

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

PERMISSION TO OFFER ROTHMAN AMENDMENT NO. 12 OUT OF ORDER DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1684, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during further consideration of H.R. 1684 in the Committee of the Whole, pursuant to House Resolution 382, the following amendment be permitted to be offered at any time: Rothman amendment No. 12.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Mississippi?

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

PERMISSION TO OFFER ROTHMAN AMENDMENT NO. 13 OUT OF ORDER DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1684, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during further consideration of H.R. 1684 in the Committee of the Whole, pursuant to House Resolution 382, the following amendment be permitted to be offered at any time: Rothman amendment No. 13.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Mississippi?

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 382 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1684.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1684) to authorize appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes, with Mrs. JONES of Ohio (Acting Chairman) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, amendment No. 18 printed in House Report 110-136 by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 19 OFFERED BY MS. CASTOR

The Acting CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 19 printed in House Report 110-136.

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 19 offered by Ms. CASTOR:

At the end of title XI of the bill, add the following (and conform the table of contents accordingly):

SEC. 1122. TRANSPORTATION WORKER IDENTIFICATION CREDENTIAL PROGRAM.

The Secretary of Homeland Security shall work with the State of Florida and other States, as appropriate, to resolve the differences between the Transportation Worker Identification Credential and existing access control credentials.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 382, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of this amendment. My amendment requires the Department of Homeland Security to work with the State of Florida and other States, if necessary, to resolve the differences between the Federal Transportation Worker Identification Credential, known as the TWIC, and Florida's existing access control card.

You see, shortly after 9/11, the State of Florida enacted a law requiring a centralized biometric credential for workers in deepwater ports in the State of Florida, including the three ports in my district in the Tampa Bay area.

This credential is known as the Florida Uniform Port Access Credential, or FUPAC. At the port of Tampa, we have credentialed over 39,000 port workers and the State of Florida has credentialed over 100,000 port workers throughout the State. This means that the FBI and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement have conducted extensive background checks.

Meanwhile, the Federal TWIC, which was first mandated in the Maritime Transportation Security Act, was not finalized by the Department of Homeland Security until just a few months ago.

The criteria in the FUPAC and the TWIC greatly duplicate each other. The Federal Government and the State of Florida must reconcile these credentials to ensure that our resources go to make our neighbors and our ports safe rather than satisfy bureaucratic red tape.

The Florida Ports Council says that this issue and its resolution will have a profound effect on both the viability of our maritime businesses and the security of Florida's ports.

As long as proper security requirements are being met, as they are with Florida's port credential, we need to spare the working folks who keep our ports moving from having to bear the burden and expense of undergoing unnecessarily duplicative background checks.

The amendment offered today requires that the Department of Homeland Security work with the State of Florida to resolve inconsistencies and avoid unnecessary duplication between the TWIC and the FUPAC.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment which will aid Florida's strong maritime economy and ensure that valuable resources go to keeping our neighbors and our ports safe rather than to unnecessary bureaucratic red tape.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Chair, I claim time in opposition to the amendment, even though I do not oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE).

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman.

I rise in strong support of the Castor amendment to the Homeland Security authorization bill.

I have worked long and hard to coordinate the agreement between TSA and Florida on their respective worker ID cards for screening port workers. TSA has been dragging their feet, unwilling to compromise so that Florida does not have to discontinue its own card. It wasn't until Senator Paula